



## **Interim Guidance: Reporting Influenza Infections in Washington State October 18, 2009**

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**Healthcare workers and hospitals should report the following patients to the local health jurisdiction where the patient resides:**

- 1) Hospitalized patients with laboratory-confirmed\* influenza infection of any type,
- 2) Deceased patients with laboratory-confirmed\* influenza infection of any type, and
- 3) Deceased patients and critically ill patients (i.e., admitted to ICU) suspected to have influenza infection.

\*Laboratory confirmation includes confirmation by a positive rapid influenza test, real-time PCR test, direct or indirect fluorescent antibody test, or viral isolate from cell culture.

### **Notes:**

- On September 18, 2009, the Department of Health adopted an emergency rule requiring hospitals and healthcare providers to report hospitalized and deceased patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza infections to the local health jurisdiction where the patient resides. The official changes to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-101-101 and 246-101-301 are available at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/Epidemiology/CD/swineflu/246-101-emgryrule.pdf>
- Hospitals and healthcare providers are encouraged to report deceased and critically ill patients suspected to have influenza so that local health jurisdictions can facilitate testing at the Public Health Laboratories.
- If a laboratorian is aware of a patient who meets the above criteria, the laboratorian should report the patient to the local health jurisdiction where the patient resides.
- Contact information for all local health jurisdictions in Washington is available at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/LHJMap/LHJMap.htm>
- Healthcare providers or hospitals will be asked to complete a short case report form for all hospitalized and deceased patients with laboratory-confirmed influenza. This Influenza Case Report Form is available at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/notify/forms/influenza.pdf>